



**Growth Group Questions**  
**November 19, 2023**  
**“Withstanding the Storms”**

**Context**

Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount by giving a parable of where to build your house. This is brilliant because it brings up profound lessons. The first is where you begin. The two houses are identical. They have the same walls, the same structure. Nothing is different about the house. In good weather, they even perform the exact same.

The only difference is where they build their house. The one who is wise understands that storms always happen. Too many times in life we take the easier or less expensive choice. Only when trouble occurs do we notice a difference.

Jesus teachings all help us to build our lives on things that last. When He teaches us about eternity, we can start to see it now. When we become a new creation by putting our faith in Jesus, we begin the journey of building our lives by starting with the precious cornerstone of Christ.

The other profound lesson that Jesus teaches is that we can spend all of our time working on things that fall apart as soon as the storm comes. Jesus speaks to the condition of our hearts. If we look like everything is put together, it doesn't matter. What matters is how we trust in Jesus and that we place our lives completely at His feet.



**Scripture:**

**Matthew 7:24-29**

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.



## Questions:

1. In Matthew 7:24-29, Jesus tells the story of two men. One was wise and the other was foolish. What do you see as the similarities and the differences between these two men?
2. The difference between the two houses in Jesus' story was their foundation. What makes a good foundation for a house? What are the comparable things you should consider when building a foundation for your life?
3. The foolish man built his house upon the sand. What is the sand upon which many people today build their lives?
4. What does it look like to have a firm foundation in Christ?
5. What can we do to build a strong foundation in Christ?
6. Rev. Porter told us that we need to prepare for the storms of life. What does the Bible tell us about how best to prepare for the storms that may come in our lives?
7. What can we do today to prepare ourselves for the coming storms?
8. How does this Scripture passage provide a fitting conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount?
9. What is the most significant take away that you have from this sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount?

